

RANCH REDUX

PRESERVE THOSE SPECIAL FEATURES

IN MINNESOTA, THE RANCH (OR RAMBLER, AS IT’S COMMONLY CALLED) IS ubiquitous. In Bloomington alone, more than 12,000 people own a rambler. As many of these postwar homes approach their 60th birthdays, the topic du jour among rambler enthusiasts is how to renovate while preserving the integrity of the original design.

If you’re thinking of renovating your rambler, before you pick up that hammer, consider this advice from National Trust for Historic Preservation Program Officer Jeanne Lambin.



Q What is the first thing you tell someone who’s thinking of remodeling their rambler?

A Do some research. These homes are more desirable now so there are many resources out there. Go to Amazon.com and look for style books on updating ranches. Alan Hess wrote a great book called *The Ranch House*.



Q What makes for a good rambler renovation?

A Staying in the home for awhile and getting to know it. What makes it unique? What features make it special? Figure out the answers to these questions and you can figure out how to update the home while preserving those special features. Look at style books from the period to see how the architects envisioned people living in them.

Q Would you recommend hiring an architect?

A If you’re going to demolish walls, consult an architect. Make sure they have experience working with homes from that era and make sure they show you examples of their work.

Q What is a big “don’t”?

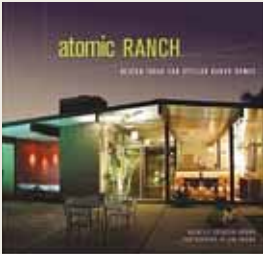
A People think they need vinyl siding and new windows to update a rambler. Vinyl siding and new windows, especially if you’re going for the stock off-the-rack windows, don’t provide more energy efficiency or increase value and both can radically change the character of a house.

Q What about decorating?

A Try to maintain the interior features of the kitchen and bathroom. Manufacturers now make great retro-looking materials. Again, look at style books and magazines and make sure you take photos of your work.

RAMBLER RESOURCES

- *Ranch Houses Are All Not the Same*, an online PDF by David Bricker.
- *Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Homes* by Michele Gringeri-Brown. *Photo left.*
- *Atomic Ranch*, a quarterly magazine devoted to 1940s-1970s ranch homes.
- *The Ranch House* by Alan Hess, an overview of the history and evolution of ranch houses.



PARKS/OPEN SPACES

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH IT’S strategic plan and community investment program, the City is undertaking a comprehensive update of Bloomington’s Park Master Plan that will help establish:

- A 20-year vision for park, recreation, open space, cultural and historical preservation, public art, and trail and bikeway systems.
- A program that includes estimated costs and funding sources.
- Capital funding priorities for park improvements and acquisitions.
- Programming priorities for recreation, historical and cultural systems.
- Policies and priorities for preserving natural features and amenities.

To gather public input for the plan, a community open house will be held **Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8877, e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Park Master Plan.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



NEW TOOL FOR MOTORISTS

For an easy-to-remember link to current road construction, visit www.cityroads.info.

county and City dollars. During the majority of construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will remain open.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

NOW IS THE TIME TO REVIEW SAFE TRANSPORTATION BEHAVIORS

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR FOR TEACHERS, caregivers and parents to teach and remind children to practice safe behaviors when walking, biking or riding the bus to and from school.

“Parents and caregivers need to remember that children are not small adults and need help crossing the street – especially if they are 10 years old or younger,” said Bloomington Police Officer Bret Anderberg.

There are also specific safety rules children need to understand before they ride the bus or bike to school. Officer Anderberg encourages teaching and reinforcing safety rules early in a child’s life so they develop lifelong good habits.

For more information and a list of safety tips, call 952-563-8861 or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Safety lessons.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION

AIMS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD RECEIVES A MAKEOVER

IMPROVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY AT 84TH Street and East Bush Lake Road that will reduce congestion and improve safety. The project is funded from a variety of sources including federal,



BLOOMINGTON

RESPONDS

CITY OFFICIALS ON SITE AT I-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

THE CITY’S FIRE AND POLICE OFFICIALS were among the first responders to arrive at the I-35W bridge collapse.

“Just hours after the collapse, the City met with command staff from various government and law enforcement agencies,” said Bloomington Chief of Police John Laux.

Officers from the Bloomington Police Department were in charge of command post security and maintained two supervisors and 12 officers for the first four days after the collapse. Chief Laux said he used officers from various assignments so as not to impact any one division.

Fire Chief Ulie Seal, one of the leaders of Minnesota Task Force 1, an urban search-and-rescue team composed of structural collapse specialists, was a major contributor to the rescue and recovery effort.

Chief Seal continues a systematic review and revision of Bloomington’s Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations plans.

“The plans are in place so if the City is affected by a disaster we will be prepared,” said Chief Seal. “By continuing to maintain operations, if the government were to lose personnel, facilities or infrastructure, especially in a longer-term emergency such as a pandemic flu, we could continue to provide services to citizens.”



UPROOTED TREES

THROUGHOUT CITY

STORM EMERGENCY DECLARED

HEAVY RAINS AND HIGH WINDS IN August resulted in localized street flooding, significant tree damage, structural damage and widespread power outages. Bloomington’s Mayor and City Council authorized a storm debris cleanup following the severe weather that passed through the city August 11. More than 60 Public Works employees picked up 6,000 truckloads of storm-damaged trees, brush and debris citywide. After another storm on August 28, the City extended the tree and brush pick up deadline. The cleanup was completed mid-September.